

## Claims

1. Illumination system (1) having a control unit (2)  
and at least one de-central lamp operating device  
5 (12, 22) for operating one or more associated lamps  
(LA),  
wherein the lamp operating device (12, 22) can  
be operated in different operational modes and,  
wherein the central control unit (2) and the  
10 lamp operating device (12, 22) are so configured  
that the selection and setting of an operational  
mode for the lamp operating device (12, 22) can be  
carried out from or via the central control unit  
(2).
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2. Illumination system according to claim 1,  
characterized in that,  
at least one of the selectable operational modes of  
the lamp operating device (12, 22) makes possible a  
20 dimming of the associated lamp (LA) or lamps.
3. Illumination system according to claim 1 or 2,  
characterized in that,  
the selection and setting of an operational mode for  
25 the lamp operating device (12, 22) is effected  
through the transmission of a corresponding control  
command from the central control unit (2).
4. Illumination system according to claim 3,  
30 characterized in that,  
this has a bus line system (3, 10, 20) via which the  
central control unit (2) is connected with the lamp

operating device (12, 22) and which is provided for the transmission of the control commands.

5. Illumination system according to any of claims 1 to 4,  
characterized in that,  
the lamp operating device (12, 22) has a memory for storing the information as to which operational modes are available in what manner for operation of the lamp (LA).
6. Illumination system according to any of claims 1 to 5,  
characterized in that,  
the lamp operating device (12, 22) operates the lamp (LA) associated therewith corresponding to a base function, in the case that no operational mode has been selected.
7. Illumination system according to claim 6,  
characterized in that,  
within the scope of the base function, the lamp operating device (12, 22) switches on and switches off the lamp (LA) associated therewith.
8. Illumination system according to any preceding claim,  
characterized in that,  
the brightness level of the lamp (LA) in the switched-on condition, or the maximum brightness level settable by means of the lamp operating device (12, 22), is alterable by means of the central control unit (2).

9. Illumination system according to claim 8,  
characterized in that,  
the control unit (1) increases the switched-on  
5 brightness level, or the maximum-brightness level of  
the lamp (LA), with increasing operating time.

10. Illumination system according to claim 9,  
characterized in that,  
10 the degree of increase of the switched-on brightness  
level, or the maximum brightness level, is dependent  
upon the lamp type and/or luminaire type.

11. Illumination system according to claim 10,  
15 characterized in that,  
by means of the increase of the switched-on  
brightness level, or the maximum brightness level,  
an aging of the lamp (LA) and/or a dirtying of the  
luminaire is compensated.

20 12. Lamp operating device (12, 22) for operating an  
associated lamp (LA), which is operable in different  
operational modes,  
characterized in that,  
25 the selection and setting of an operational mode for  
the lamp operating device (12, 22) can be determined  
externally.

30 13. Lamp operating device (12, 22) for operating an  
associated lamp (LA),  
characterized in that,  
the brightness level of the lamp (LA) in the  
switched-on condition, or the maximum brightness

level settable by means of the lamp operating device (12, 22), can be externally set.

5        14.        Method for operating a lamp (LA) by means of a  
         lamp operating device (12, 22),  
         wherein the lamp operating device (12, 22) is  
         operable in different operational modes,  
         characterized in that,  
         the selection and setting of an operational mode for  
10        the lamp operating device (12, 22) is effected  
         externally.

         15.        Method according to claim 14,  
         characterized in that,  
15        the selection and setting of an operational mode for  
         the lamp operating device (12, 22) is effected by  
         means of the transmission of an external control  
         command.

20        16.        Method according to claim 14 or 15,  
         characterized in that,  
         at least one of the selectable operational modes of  
         the lamp operating device (12, 22) makes possible a  
         dimming of the associated lamp (LA) or lamps.

25        17.        Method according to claim 15 or 16,  
         characterized in that,  
         the lamp operating device (12, 22) operates the lamp  
         (LA) associated therewith in accordance with a base  
30        function, in the case that no operational mode has  
         been selected.

         18.        Method according to claim 17,

characterized in that,  
the lamp operating device (12, 22) switches on and  
switches off the associated lamp (LA), within the  
scope of the base function.

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19. Method according to any of claims 14 to 18,  
characterized in that,  
the brightness level of the lamp (LA) in switched-on  
condition, or the maximum brightness level which can  
be set by means of the lamp operating device (12,  
22), can be altered.

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20. Method according to claim 19,  
characterized in that,  
the switched-on brightness level, or the maximum  
brightness level of the lamp (LA), is increased with  
increasing operational time.

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21. Method according to claim 20,  
characterized in that,  
the degree of increase of the switched-on brightness  
level or of the maximum brightness level is  
dependent upon the lamp type and/or the luminaire  
type.

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22. Method according to claim 21,  
characterized in that,  
through the increase of the switched-on brightness  
level or of the maximum brightness level an aging of  
the lamp (LA) and/or a dirtying of the luminaire is  
compensated.

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23. Method of operating a lamp (LA) by means of a lamp operating device (12, 22), characterized in that,  
the brightness level of the lamp (LA) in the  
switched-on condition, or the maximum brightness  
level settable by means of the lamp operating device  
(12, 22), is alterable.

24. Method according to claim 23, characterized in that,  
the switched-on brightness level or the maximum  
brightness level of the lamp (LA) is increased with  
increasing operational time.

25. Method according to claim 24, characterized in that,  
the degree of increase of the switched-on brightness  
level or of the maximum brightness level is  
dependent upon the lamp type and/or luminaire type.

26. Method according to claim 25, characterized in that,  
by means of the increase of the switched-on  
brightness level or of the maximum brightness level  
an aging of the lamp (LA) and/or a dirtying of the  
luminaire is compensated.